

12/05/2016

FILED
Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA
Case Number: AF 09-0688

December 3, 2016

**Montana Supreme Court
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003**

DEC 05 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

Re: Professional Rules of Conduct, Rule 8.4(g)

Honorable Members of the Court,

You have called for public comment of the proposed new Rule 8.4(g) of the Professional Rules of Conduct for Montana Attorneys. As a concerned citizen, I ask that you consider my request that you reject this rule for the following reasons.

Adopting this rule will severely limit the free speech of an entire professional group of people. The first amendment is the bedrock of our freedoms. This will set a dangerous precedent and open the door for other groups to be singled out because of their convictions and beliefs. Most importantly, this includes religious beliefs. No one should be discriminated against because of their core values and beliefs. This ruling may limit for an attorney to speak against certain behaviors associated with sexual orientation, identity, or marital status without acting in a discriminatory manner. In doing so, it will limit his clientele and restrict his livelihood.

Not only that, but it is a serious threat to all religious freedom. Lawyers could not represent clients who are faced with challenges in these arenas. They could not serve and counsel church boards in matters related to conscience and faith.

This is an overreach by government that should not be allowed. It is not the purpose of the Court to engineer social issues but to abide by the rule of law for all people. The primary rule of law is our freedom of speech and freedom of religion.

I urge you to strongly consider the precedent that will be set by adopting such a rule. I urge you to consider the unconstitutionality and the long term effects it will have on Montana citizens of all faiths.

Sincerely,

Dr. and Mrs. David Hafer
**Dr. and Mrs. David Hafer
PO Box 300
Dayton, Mt 59914**